

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
2 receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
3 receiving a trigger signal from the server;
4 sending feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein sending the feedback to the server in
2 response to the trigger signal from the server comprises establishing a connection
3 to the server.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising utilizing a binary
2 exponential back-off system to establish the connection with the server if the
3 connection to the server cannot be established.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the sending the feedback to the server
2 comprises establishing the connection the server through a back channel.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the sending the feedback to the server
2 comprises establishing the connection the server through a network connection to
3 the server.

1 6. A method, comprising:
2 receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
3 timing an amount of time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent to the
4 server;
5 sending a next feedback to the server after the amount of time lapsed since
6 the previous feedback was sent to the server is greater than a predetermined
7 amount of time.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein timing the amount of time lapsed since
2 the previous feedback was sent to the server comprises maintaining a local timer
3 of the amount of time lapsed since the previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 8. The method of claim 6 further comprising resetting a timer of the
2 amount of time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent to the server after
3 sending the next feedback to the server.

1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein sending the next feedback to the server
2 comprises establishing a connection to the with the server.

1 10. A method, comprising:
2 receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
3 generating demand data related to the content described by the content
4 descriptors;

5 sending feedback to the server after demand data is generated related to a
6 first amount of content.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the generation of the demand data
2 comprises consuming at least a portion of content locally stored, the generation of
3 demand data responsive to the portion of content that is consumed.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the generation of demand data
2 related to the content described by the content descriptors comprises receiving
3 explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content.

1 13. The method of claim 10 wherein the sending of the feedback to the
2 server comprises sending the feedback to the server after demand data related to a
3 first number of pieces of content have been generated.

1 14. The method of claim 10 wherein the generation of the demand data
2 related to the content comprises ranking the content.

1 15. The method of claim 10 wherein the generation of the demand data
2 related to the content comprises rating the content.

1 16. A method, comprising:
2 receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;

3 receiving content from the server;
4 storing the content received from the server in a storage device;
5 sending feedback to the server after a first amount of content stored in the
6 storage device has been consumed.

1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising maintaining a count of a
2 number of pieces of content that have been consumed since a previous feedback
3 was sent to the server.

1 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising resetting the count of the
2 number of pieces of content that have been consumed since the previous feedback
3 was sent to the server after sending the feedback to the server after the first
4 amount of content stored in the storage device has been consumed.

1 19. A method, comprising:
2 receiving content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
3 receiving content from the server;
4 storing the content received from the server in a storage device;
5 sending feedback to the server after a first amount of unconsumed content
6 remains stored in the storage device.

1 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising consuming content that is
2 stored in the storage device.

1 21. The method of claim 19 further comprising maintaining a count of an
2 amount of unconsumed content stored in the storage device.

1 22. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
2 receiving additional content from the server after sending the feedback to
3 the server; and
4 storing the additional content received from the server in the storage
5 device.

1 23. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:
3 receive content descriptors from a server, the content descriptors to
4 describe content potentially to be sent from the server;
5 receive a trigger signal from the server;
6 send feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein when the instructions stored on the
2 machine-readable medium send the feedback to the server in response to the
3 trigger signal from the server, the instructions on the machine-readable medium
4 further establish a connection to the server.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the machine-readable medium
2 further has instructions stored thereon to utilize a binary exponential back-off
3 system to establish the connection with the server if the connection to the server
4 cannot be established.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein when the instructions stored on the
2 machine-readable medium send the feedback to the server, the instructions on the
3 machine-readable medium further establish the connection to the server through a
4 back channel.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein when the instructions stored on the
2 machine-readable medium send the feedback to the server, the instructions on the
3 machine-readable medium further establish the connection to the server through a
4 network connection to the server.

1 28. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:
3 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
4 time an amount of time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent
5 to the server;
6 send a next feedback to the server after the amount of time lapsed
7 since the previous feedback was sent to the server is greater than a
8 predetermined amount of time.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein when the instructions stored on the
2 machine-readable medium time the amount of time lapsed since the previous
3 feedback was sent to the server, the machine-readable medium further has
4 instructions to maintain a local timer to time the amount of time lapsed since the
5 previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the machine-readable medium
2 further has instructions to reset a timer of the amount of time lapsed since a
3 previous feedback was sent to the server after sending the next feedback to the
4 server.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein when the instructions stored on the
2 machine-readable medium send the next feedback to the server, the machine-
3 readable medium further has instructions stored thereon to establish a connection
4 to the with the server.

1 32. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:
3 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
4 generate demand data related to the content described by the
5 content descriptors;

6 send feedback to the server after demand data related to a first
7 amount of content has been generated.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the machine-readable medium
2 further has instructions to consume at least a portion of content locally stored, the
3 demand data generated in responsive to the portion of content that is consumed.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the machine-readable medium
2 further has instructions to receive explicit user input regarding specific pieces of
3 content, the demand data generated in responsive to the explicit user input.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the demand data is generated
2 related to the first amount of content after demand data has been generated in
3 connection with a first number of pieces of content.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 32 generating the demand data related to the
2 content comprises ranking the content.

1 37. The apparatus of claim 32 generating the demand data related to the
2 content comprises rating the content.

1 38. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:

3 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
4 receive content from the server;
5 store the content received from the server in a storage device;
6 send feedback to the server after a first amount of content stored in
7 the storage device has been consumed.

1 39. The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the machine-readable medium
2 further has instructions to maintain a count of a number of pieces of content that
3 have been consumed since a previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the machine-readable medium
2 further has instructions to reset the count of the number of pieces of content that
3 have been consumed since the previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 41. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:
3 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
4 receive content from the server;
5 store the content received from the server in a storage device;
6 send feedback to the server after a first amount of unconsumed
7 content remains stored in the storage device.

1 42. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the machine-readable medium
2 further has instructions to consume content that is stored in the storage device.

1 43. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the machine-readable medium
2 further has instructions to maintain a count of an amount of unconsumed content
3 stored in the storage device.

1 44. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the machine-readable medium
2 further has instructions to:
3 receive additional content from the server after sending the feedback to the
4 server; and
5 store the additional content received from the server in the storage device.

1 45. An apparatus, comprising
2 a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;
3 a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications
4 interface coupled to receive communications from a server;
5 a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored
6 therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:
7 receive content descriptors from a server, the content descriptors to
8 describe content potentially to be sent from the server;
9 receive a trigger signal from the server;
10 send feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.

1 46. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 establish a connection with the server when sending feedback to the server in
3 response to the trigger signal.

1 47. The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 utilize a binary exponential back-off system to establish the connection with the
3 server if the connection to the server cannot be established.

1 48. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 establish a connection with the server through a back channel when sending
3 feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.

1 49. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 establish a connection with the server through a network connection when sending
3 feedback to the server in response to the trigger signal.

1 50. An apparatus, comprising
2 a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;
3 a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications
4 interface coupled to receive communications from a server;
5 a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored
6 therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:

7 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
8 time an amount of time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent
9 to the server;
10 send a next feedback to the server after the amount of time lapsed
11 since the previous feedback was sent to the server is greater than a
12 predetermined amount of time.

1 51. The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 maintain a local timer to time the amount of time lapsed since the previous
3 feedback was sent to the server.

1 52. The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 establish a connection with the server when sending the next feedback to the
3 server.

1 53. An apparatus, comprising
2 a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;
3 a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications
4 interface coupled to receive communications from a server;
5 a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored
6 therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:
7 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
8 rank or rate the content described by the content descriptors;

9 send feedback to the server after demand data related to a first
10 amount of content has been generated.

1 54. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 consume at least a portion of content locally stored, the demand data generated in
3 responsive to the portion of content that is consumed.

1 55. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 receive explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content, the demand data
3 generated in responsive to the explicit user input.

1 56. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the demand data related to the first
2 amount of content is generated after demand data has been generated in
3 connection with a first number of pieces of content.

1 57. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;
3 a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications
4 interface coupled to receive communications from a server;
5 a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored
6 therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:
7 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
8 receive content from the server;

9 store the content received from the server in a storage device;
10 send feedback to the server after a first amount of content stored in
11 the storage device has been consumed.

1 58. The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 maintain a count of a number of pieces of content that have been consumed since
3 a previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 59. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 reset the count of the number of pieces of content that have been consumed since
3 the previous feedback was sent to the server after sending the feedback to the
4 server.

1 60. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;
3 a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications
4 interface coupled to receive communications from a server;
5 a storage device coupled to the processor, having instructions stored
6 therein, which when executed cause the apparatus to:
7 receive content descriptors, which describe content, from a server;
8 receive content from the server;
9 store the content received from the server in a storage device;

10 send feedback to the server after a first amount of unconsumed
11 content remains stored in the storage device.

1 61. The apparatus of claim 60 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 consume content that is stored in the storage device.

1 62. The apparatus of claim 60 wherein the apparatus is further caused to
2 maintain a count of an amount of unconsumed content stored in the storage
3 device.

1 63. The apparatus of claim 60 wherein the apparatus is further caused to:
2 receive additional content from the server after sending the feedback to the
3 server; and
4 store the additional content received from the server in the storage device.

1 64. A method, comprising:
2 sending content descriptors, which describe content, to one or more
3 clients;
4 sending a trigger signal to said one or more clients;
5 receiving feedback from the one or more clients in response to the trigger
6 signal.

1 65. The method of claim 64 further comprising generating the content
2 descriptors to describe the content prior to sending the content descriptors to the
3 one or more clients.

1 66. The method of claim 64 further comprising determining an order to
2 send the content in response to the feedback received from the one or more
3 clients.

1 67. The method of claim 64 further comprising identifying the content to
2 send to the one or more clients in response to the feedback received from the one
3 or more clients.

1 68. A method, comprising:
2 generating content descriptors to describe content;
3 sending the content descriptors to one or more clients;
4 receiving feedback from the one or more clients without the sending of a
5 trigger signal to the one or more clients.

1 69. The method of claim 68 further comprising determining an order to
2 send the content in response to the feedback received from the one or more
3 clients.

1 70. The method of claim 68 further comprising identifying the content to
2 send to the one or more clients in response to the feedback received from the one
3 or more clients.

1 71. A system, comprising:
2 a server;
3 one ore more clients coupled to the server;
4 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which
5 describe available content, to the one or more clients;
6 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast a trigger signal to the one or
7 more clients;
8 wherein the one or more clients are coupled to send feedback to the server
9 in response to the trigger signal.

1 72. The system of claim 71 wherein the one or more clients are coupled to
2 utilize a binary exponential back-off system to establish a connection with the
3 server to send the feedback to the server if a connection to the server cannot be
4 established.

1 73. The system of claim 71 wherein the one or more clients are coupled to
2 establish a connection to the server through a back channel to send the feedback to
3 the server.

1 74. A system, comprising:
2 a server;
3 one ore more clients coupled to the server;
4 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which
5 describe available content, to the one or more clients;
6 wherein each of the one or more clients are coupled to time an amount of
7 time lapsed since a previous feedback was sent to the server;
8 wherein each of the one or more clients are coupled to send a next
9 feedback to the server after the amount of time lapsed since the previous feedback
10 was sent to the server is greater than a predetermined amount of time.

1 75. The system of claim 74 each of the one or more clients each of the one
2 or more clients include a timer to time the amount of time lapsed since the
3 previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 76. The system of claim 75 wherein each of the one or more clients each
2 of the one or more clients are coupled to reset the timer of the amount of time
3 lapsed since a previous feedback was sent to the server after the next feedback is
4 sent to the server.

1 77. A system, comprising:
2 a server;
3 one ore more clients coupled to the server;

4 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which
5 describe available content, to the one or more clients;
6 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to generate demand data
7 related to the content described by the content descriptors;
8 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to send feedback to the
9 server after demand data is generated related to a first amount of content on each
10 respective one of the clients.

1 78. The system of claim 77 wherein each of the one or more clients are
2 each coupled to consume at least a portion of content locally stored, the
3 generation of demand data on each client responsive to the portion of content that
4 is consumed.

1 79. The system of claim 77 wherein each of the one or more clients are
2 each coupled to receive explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content
3 when generating the demand data.

1 80. A system, comprising:
2 a server;
3 one ore more clients coupled to the server;
4 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which
5 describe available content, to the one or more clients;

6 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content to the one or more
7 clients;

8 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to receive and store the
9 content received from the server;

10 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to consume the content;

11 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to send feedback to the
12 server after a first amount of content stored in the storage device has been
13 consumed.

1 81. The system of claim 80 wherein the one or more clients are each
2 coupled to maintain a count of a number of pieces of content that have been
3 consumed since a previous feedback was sent to the server.

1 82. The system of claim 81 wherein the one or more clients are each
2 coupled to reset the count of the number of pieces of content that have been
3 consumed since the previous feedback was sent to the server after sending the
4 feedback to the server after the first amount of content stored in the storage device
5 has been consumed.

1 83. A system, comprising:
2 a server;
3 one ore more clients coupled to the server;

4 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content descriptors, which
5 describe available content, to the one or more clients;
6 wherein the server is coupled to broadcast content to the one or more
7 clients;
8 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to receive and store the
9 content received from the server;
10 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to consume the content;
11 wherein the one or more clients are each coupled to send feedback to the
12 server after a first amount of unconsumed content remains stored at the client.

1 84. The system of claim 83 wherein the one or more clients are each
2 coupled to maintain a count of an amount of unconsumed content stored at the
3 client.

1 85. The system of claim 83 wherein the one or more clients are each
2 coupled to receive additional content from the server after sending the feedback to
3 the server and store the additional content received from the server at the client.